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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #2885-83/1
21 April 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1
Acting National Intelligence Officer for Africa 25X1

SUBJECT : Warning Report: Sub-Saharan Africa [REDACTED]

Community representatives and specialists met on 19 April 1983 with the Acting NIO/AF as chairman. The attached report has not been coordinated with the other participants, but is being circulated to them. If they feel their views have been misinterpreted, or if they have significant additional concerns, I'll report further to you. [REDACTED] 25X1

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Attachment
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WARNING REPORT: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa, plagued by a number of local or regional conflicts, continues to be of major concern to Community analysts.

South Africa-Namibia

Since early March, South Africa has moved an additional 2-3 battalions into northern Namibia, raising the total troop strength there to over 10,000 men. Some 500-1000 South African troops remain in the southern Angola buffer zone. The build-up, characterized as "unprecedented" by DIA analysts, also includes an increased number of armored vehicles and additional POL and ammunition storage facilities.

Pretoria's intentions concerning the build-up are not clear. Possible reasons advanced by analysts were: 1) reaction to a possible Angolan-Cuban threat to South African forces in the Angolan buffer zone, 2) a feint designed to divert Angolan-Cuban attention from UNITA's military operations, or (3) preparation for another major incursion into southern Angola, perhaps before recently-arrived Soviet SA-8 surface-to-air missile systems become operational.

Analysts also noted two factors which weigh against any immediate incursions. The northern Namibia staging area has experienced heavier rains than usual this year and it will be some time before the land is dry enough for ground operations. Also, as of the date of the warning meeting no South African fighter aircraft had been moved into the area. Nevertheless, analysts conceded that the chances of major South African military operations into Angola remain high.

Angola-UNITA

Jonas Savimbi's UNITA guerrillas are maintaining their momentum and may be preparing for further offensives after some regrouping. It was noted that upcoming deliveries of Soviet troop-carrying helicopters and helicopter gunships as well as [redacted] a possible visit by a high-ranking Soviet officer associated with Soviet operations in Afghanistan suggests high Angolan concern with UNITA operations and may presage an Angolan-Cuban counter-offensive. [redacted]

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Zimbabwe

Growing concern was voiced over disturbing trends that are emerging in the wake of the government's often heavy-handed military efforts to suppress dissidence in Matabeleland, the base of self-exiled opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's popular support. There was general agreement that what until now has been regarded as banditry in Matabeleland is beginning to coalesce as organized resistance. So far, this resistance is centered on defense against attacks by government forces and is not aimed at overthrowing the Mugabe government. The dissidents, however, seem to be becoming more offensive-minded and are initiating some attacks against a variety of open targets.

Some analysts fear that there will be a split within Nkomo's ZAPU between the political and military wings with a hardcore military group going into open organized opposition against the government. A split might be accelerated if the decision in the recently-concluded treason trial against two senior ZAPU military leaders goes against the defendants. There are signs that a hard-core military leadership is beginning to appear in the camps in Botswana where ZAPU refugees and army deserters are located.

The Botswana connection has added to the Community's concern because it raises the prospect of ZAPU raids into Matabeleland and Zimbabwean retaliatory military operations into Botswana against the ZAPU dissidents. The Botswanan government has publicly promised to defend its borders against Zimbabwean incursions and thus the prospects for serious friction between the two countries are real and immediate.

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OTHER DEVELOPMENTSChad

Military operations in the north are at a stalemate, although a move by Habre's forces to recapture Ounianga Kebir seems likely in the near future, according to CIA analysts. There are also some indications that ex-president Goukouni is attempting to install a small force of his dissidents near Lake Chad. The rainy season normally begins in May and will impede Habre's efforts to keep his forces in northern Chad supplied since the bulk of the supplies are carried overland. The rains would not necessarily hamper military operations, however. Habre continues to project the image of a winner which he won when he ousted Goukouni but another military setback or failure to retake Ounianga Kebir could seriously weaken that image and erode his base of support.

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Ethiopia-Somalia

The latest small-scale clashes resulted from reactions to what each side observed on the other side of the border. There is no evidence that either side is undergoing the kind of buildup necessary for serious aggressive action. Nevertheless, analysts warned that the low-level activity that constantly takes place in the border area could lead to major hostilities without advance warning.

Nigeria

Because of rising election "fever" and the high probability of violence associated with the upcoming election campaign, the Community analysts are maintaining a close watch. DIA noted its concern that current press stories alleging CIA destabilization plans for Nigeria could be exploited by opposition political parties or anti-US elements and result in attacks against US personnel.

SNIPPETS
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In Lesotho, the activities of the South African-supported Lesotho Liberation Army bear continued watching.

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